

Paoli, PA -- On Sunday, March 11, Congressman Joe Sestak (PA-7), a former 3-Star Admiral, attended a ceremony at Paoli Presbyterian Church honoring Eagle Scout recipients J William Raphael Pilling and Peter Lukacs.

At the event, Joe — a former Cub Scout— talked about the importance of service:

“I am proud today to join members of the community in honoring William Raphael Pilling and Peter Lukacs on their wonderful achievement,” noted Joe. “It is from service organizations such as the Boy Scouts organization where so many future leaders, such as William and Peter, are drawn from. These community efforts are ones that truly symbolize the principles our country values and what I learned in the Navy: duty, honor, courage.”

William Randolph Pilling, an eighteen year old, has been in the Scouts for seven years and is the son of William and Andrea Pilling. His Eagle Scout Project was to build concrete memorial pillars to honor 13 men killed in the Paoli Massacre. William has held the following leadership positions in the Troop: Quartermaster, Assistant Patrol Leader, Patrol Leader, and Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. In addition to his scouting activities, he also participates in Cross Country, is the Captain of the Spring Track team, is a sailing instructor, and will be attending the University of Pennsylvania next year.

Peter Lukacs is the son of Alexander and Krynn Lukacs. He is currently a sophomore at Radnor High School. His Eagle Scout project benefited the Home of the Sparrow, which is an organization committed to helping women and children who are homeless or victims of domestic abuse. Peter led a team to rebuild a roof over the back stairs of one of their homes. The roof was complete with supports and shingling, as well as a new light fixture to help with visibility and safety. His team also repaired and painted the walls around two new sets of book shelves installed in an office of the house. Peter plays the trombone in the Radnor High School band, plays guitar, and plays on the school's ultimate Frisbee team. He is also active at the Main Line Unitarian Church, where he helps instruct younger students in religious education and participates in the high school youth group.

According to the Boy Scouts of America, the fact that a boy is an Eagle Scout has always carried with it a special significance, not only in Scouting but also as he enters higher education, business or industry, and community service. The award is a performance-based achievement whose standards have been well-maintained over the years. Not every boy who joins a Boy Scout troop earns the Eagle Scout rank; only about 5 percent of all Boy Scouts do so. This

represents more than 1.7 million Boy Scouts who have earned the rank since 1912. Nevertheless, the goals of Scouting—citizenship training, character development, and personal fitness—remain important for all Scouts, whether or not they attain the Eagle Scout rank.

*Born and raised in Delaware County, former 3-star Admiral Joe Sestak served in the Navy for 31 years and now serves as the Representative from the 7th District of Pennsylvania. He led a series of operational commands at sea, including Commander of an aircraft carrier battle group of 30 U.S. and allied ships with over 15,000 sailors and 100 aircraft that conducted operations in Afghanistan and Iraq. After 9/11, Joe was the first Director of "Deep Blue," the Navy's anti-terrorism unit that established strategic and operations policies for the "Global War on Terrorism." He served as President Clinton's Director for Defense Policy at the National Security Council in the White House, and holds a Ph.D. in Political Economy and Government from Harvard University. According to the office of the House Historian, Joe is the highest-ranking former military officer ever to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.*

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